

## PLENARY POWER MAY BE GIVEN TAFT

He Desires Authority to  
Send Troops Across  
Mexican Border.

## SENATE LEADERS CONFER WITH HIM

Resolution Will Be Introduced  
Empowering Him to Take  
Whatever Steps He Deems  
Necessary Should Emer-  
gency Arise—More En-  
couraging News.

Washington, February 25.—President Taft soon may be clothed with authority to send American troops across the Mexican border to quell either conditions of anarchy or fighting which might threaten lives or property on this side of the line. A resolution probably will be introduced in the Senate shortly, with the knowledge of the administration, which will be similar to Senator Stone's of last May, which directed the Foreign Relations Committee to ascertain the duty of this government in connection with the killing of Americans by firing from the Mexican side, or it may prepare to delegate to President Taft authority to take whatever steps he may deem necessary in an emergency.

The proposed resolution is assumed to be the direct outcome of the conference last night at the White House between the President and Senators Lodge, Bacon and Stone, of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senators Bailey and Culberson, of Texas. The President discussed the situation with these Senators, and, being without authority to send troops out of the country without the sanction of Congress, is believed to have explained that a situation might arise where it might be necessary to cross into Mexico to combat the bandits who remove their headquarters to a point safely beyond the Mexican border. Such an act, it was said, could not be considered an invasion nor an act of war, as there was precedent for the landing of marines on foreign territory in the absence of troops from the constituted government to protect foreign residents.

An encouraging development of the day, however, was the receipt of dispatches reporting peaceful conditions at El Paso, where the only disturbing element being Yaqui Indians. It is believed that more American troops will be ordered to the border towns within the next week. The Washington government believes that the presence of a large body of well-equipped regulars and cavalry, as well as field artillery might have a deterrent effect on lawless bands in Northern Mexico, and would reassure the Texas communities.

**Foreigners Will Be Notified.**  
El Paso, Texas, February 25.—Juarez will not be attacked until proper notice has been given by the rebels to the foreigners residing in the town, according to Emilio Campa, in command of 700 men encamped at Baucha, twelve miles south of Juarez, on the Mexican Northwestern Road.

Campa said to-day that he is awaiting the arrival of Colonels Inez Salazar and Antonio Rojas, with their troops. He declared that after they had arrived from the South, Juarez did not surrender, the town would be taken, but care would be exercised to attack from such a position that El Paso would not be hit by any bullets from rebel guns.

Place shall advance from the river, and place our artillery there, fighting parallel with El Paso," said Campa. "Our best advice is that President Madero is vacillating and that he will resign when Juarez surrenders. If not, we shall proceed southward, leaving a large detachment in Juarez to maintain order."

"We have 700 men here now, 600 cavalrymen and 100 infantrymen. We also have five three and one-half inch cannons. When Salazar and Rojas arrive our total strength will be 1,700 men at a minimum. When we will advance on Juarez, we will be met by a detachment of 1,000 men. It is certain that when we advance we shall be equipped and prepared not only to take Juarez, but to march from Juarez to Mexico City."

"We are for Emilio Vasquez Gomez for the presidency and will not accept any one else."

Regarding the position of General Orozco, General Campa said: "We have every reason to believe that Orozco will join us in the march from Juarez to Mexico City."

Juarez is now defended only by a few regulars and volunteer guards and police. Some of these men are being used as pickets, five miles from the city, in the direction of the rebels.

More than 500 citizens of Juarez were given permission to arm themselves to-day, for defense of the city. The commitment of the Fourth Cavalry and a detachment of infantry are on the river front to protect El Paso in the event of a battle at Juarez. The special trains from San Antonio bearing troops are expected to arrive here about 6 o'clock Monday morning.

Famine Threatens City.

Torreon, Mexico, February 25.—The situation here is growing critical. This

## MIDDLE OF JUNE MAY WITNESS END

Congress Hardly Likely  
to Be Prolonged Be-  
yond Conventions.

## POLITICAL AIR GROWING TORRID

Freely Predicted That Legis-  
lators Will Be Unable to Keep  
Up the Pace Longer Than  
Early Summer—Practically  
Nothing Done With  
Supply Measures.

Washington, February 25.—Political activities are heating the atmosphere to such a degree that it was freely predicted to-day that Democratic leaders of the House and Republican leaders of the Senate soon would find themselves agreed that Congress could not keep up the pace beyond the middle of June. Until now it appeared to be an accepted fact that the session would be prolonged beyond the Chicago and Baltimore conventions.

Unless Democratic Leader Underwood and his associates in the House are willing to abandon a part of their program to bring in metal, sugar, chemical, cotton and woolen tariff bills, night sessions soon will be necessary, for practically nothing has been done with supply measures. The appropriation bills will require time for consideration, as the Democratic economy scheme is directly involved.

**Putting It Up to House.**  
The Republican Senate leaders believe if the session drags out beyond the conventions and nothing is accomplished, that the House will have to carry the lion's share of the responsibility. All of these arguments, it is predicted, are likely to make both sides more willing to quit before the conventions.

An early report on the metal bill, the only one of the House measures that has reached the Senate, is expected from the Senate Finance Committee. The Democrats have served notice that while they are willing to permit hearings, they would move to discharge the committee if they believed time was being wasted. Chairman Penrose concedes the power of the Democrats, with the aid of insurgents, to compel a report from the committee whenever it is called for. Therefore it is likely that hearings on the bill will be closed on February 25.

Republican regulars are in the majority even if Senator La Follette should vote with the Democrats on the committee. Two points are open to this majority—either to report the metal bill adversely or to report a substitute, for it is conceded that the bill will not receive a favorable report. It is believed that the regular Republicans will plant themselves upon their old platform of waiting for the tariff board and will content themselves with an adverse report.

The plan to reject any bill not based upon information gathered by the tariff board will not apply when the House sends to the Senate bills to revise the cotton and woolen tariffs. The Finance Committee, in the case of these bills, would build complete substitutes based upon the tariff board's findings.

**Insurgents Not Coherent.**  
Democrats and Republican insurgents of the Senate have not canvassed the situation to determine if they will be able to unite on a tariff program, mainly because the insurgents are far from being the coherent body they were last session. The thirteen new Republicans who have not had a meeting since the presidential campaign of Senator La Follette was launched. Several of the thirteen now favor non-action on tariff measures that have not received the attention of the tariff board. They may even endorse the program to be offered by the regular members of the Finance Committee.

The feeling now is that each tariff bill will have to be handled on its merits. The Democrats hope to get enough insurgent votes to pass the House metal bill to the White House for the veto it would be certain to meet. If the Democrats vote solidly for the House bill it would require four Republican votes to pass it. Some of the Democrats, however, fear defections in their own ranks.

## Storms of Rain or Snow Predicted for Week

Washington, February 25.—Two storms of rain or snow, or both, are predicted to cross the country this week, says the weekly bulletin of the Weather Bureau.

A disturbance central to-day in the Southwest will advance to the Ohio Valley on Monday and Tuesday, to the St. Lawrence Valley. It will be attended by general precipitation over the Mississippi Valley and the Ohio Valley on Monday and Tuesday, being in the form of rain in Southern and snow and rain in Northern States.

This disturbance will be followed by a change to colder weather over all districts east of the Rocky Mountains, but it will be of short duration, and it is probable that rising temperature will overshadow the cold on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the eastern half of the country by the middle of the week.

The next general disturbance to cross the country will appear in the West on Wednesday or Thursday, cross the Middle West about Friday and the Eastern States near the close of the week. It probably will be attended by general rains, although snows are likely in Northern States.

Generally fair weather, with moderate temperature, will prevail during the week on the Pacific slope, with the exception that rains will set in over the North Pacific States on Tuesday or Wednesday.

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## TAFT DEEPLY HURT BY COLONEL'S ACT

Hears Announcement,  
Not in Anger, but  
in Great Pain.

## STILL CONFIDENT OF HIS ELECTION

Back Forced to Wall, He Will  
Fight to Last, Even if It Means  
Undoing of Party—Hughes  
Talked Of as Compromise  
Candidate at Chicago  
Convention.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Washington, February 25.—President Taft and his political managers had no public comment to make to-night on the Roosevelt statement, but to a United States Senator who talked with Mr. Taft in regard to the statement, the President said:

"I know we are right, and I am confident that we will be successful." The Roosevelt statement was received by Republicans with varying opinions, but all agree that it was stronger and more to the point than they had anticipated. Colonel Roosevelt, in their opinion, has said not only that he would accept the nomination if it comes to him, but also: "I am a candidate; nominate me."

**Means Party Split.**  
The general drift of opinion among all shades of Republicans is that the Roosevelt statement means a split in the Republican party which absolutely insures the election of a Democratic President unless some compromise is reached. President Taft will never consent now to yield in Roosevelt's favor unless he is absolutely outvoted in the Chicago convention, and Roosevelt's supporters declare that his statement may be taken as positive assurance that he is in the fight to the finish.

In the opinion of experienced Republican politicians this means a bitter personal campaign between the President and his predecessor, with a resulting situation that will make it impossible for either to obtain the cordial support of the other after the nominee shall have been determined in the Chicago convention. With such a split confronting the party, there will be only one hope of success, and that will be in the selection of a compromise candidate. If Roosevelt carries out his present intention, such a solution, in the opinion of political observers, will be the only chance for Republican success.

This decided turn in the situation has again revived talk of Associate Justice Charles E. Hughes as a possible compromise candidate. It is the consensus of opinion in Washington that the President, in the event of Roosevelt's getting the upper hand in the Chicago convention, would throw his support to Hughes or to some other candidate before he would see the honor conferred upon Roosevelt.

**Not in Anger, but in Pain.**  
The President is said to have received Roosevelt's statement not in anger, but in great pain. The receipt of the statement meant to him the blasting of a friendship that had for years been warm and intimate. "I regret that was the last to acknowledge that Roosevelt had turned upon him and was seeking to undermine his political strength. To those who talked with him, the President expressed no concern over his own political fortunes. It is the fortune of his party that is worrying him. The President has expressed the fear that more than one of his friends that fight that has been started will result in the undoing of the Republican party this year. Yet the President himself has been forced into a situation where he will be obliged to go to all fight, and he intends to do with all his strength. The President and his advisers will try to avoid personalities, although they appreciate that Roosevelt is certain to say and do from Mr. Taft. The President feels that his back has been forced against the wall and no avenue has been left for him except a personal controversy with his predecessor and former political sponsor. He will try to meet the situation with dignity.

Opinions differed among the Republican progressives in regard to the effect of the Roosevelt statement on the political situation. Some of the progressives of the more conservative type declared that the statement was a mistake, and that it, together with his Columbus speech, would drag Roosevelt down to defeat.

Progressives of the more radical type, however, hailed the Roosevelt statement with high favor.

**Relations Were Close.**  
The relations between Colonel Roosevelt and Mr. Taft when the latter served as Secretary of War were exceptionally close. For months President Taft refused to believe that Colonel Roosevelt would oppose him for a renomination, and that he was content to all urging that he himself become a candidate was known to all Mr. Taft's friends. These friends have pointed out that Secretary of War Stimson, who ran for Governor of New York with Mr. Roosevelt as his most conspicuous backer, and also Secretary of the Navy, who was in the Roosevelt Cabinet and one of his chief closest counselors, were in the Taft official family.

It has been a matter of everyday comment that Secretaries Stimson and Meyer have been frequent visitors to Colonel Roosevelt's offices in New York or his home at Oyster Bay. These visits were accepted as proof that Taft and Roosevelt were not wholly estranged. There is a great deal of speculation here to-night as to the probable attitude of these members of the Cabinet, if their support is given to Colonel Roosevelt, their resignations may be expected.

So far as Secretary Stimson is concerned, it is known that he entered the Taft Cabinet unimpaired as to his future political activity. Colonel Roosevelt is one of the men he is known to have consulted before he

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"I will accept the nomination for President if it is tendered me, and I will adhere to this decision until the convention has expressed its preference."—Theodore Roosevelt.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

## COUNT VIRGINIA CERTAIN FOR TAFT

Republicans Believe President  
Will Have State Vote at  
Chicago Convention.

## ALREADY WELL IN THE LEAD

Great Job-Holding Upheaval Pre-  
dicted if Roosevelt Should  
Be Elected.

Regardless of what they might say to the contrary, Theodore Roosevelt's announcement that he will accept the nomination for President if it is tendered him has sent cold shivers down the spine of many a Republican in Virginia. Exactly what effect it will have on the district conventions yet to be held is not explained, though it is admitted now that a certain Roosevelt sentiment will develop and make itself felt before the meeting of the State convention in Roanoke on March 12. Had this announcement been deferred until after that date there would have been easy sailing for President Taft, and it may still be easy sailing, inasmuch as Alva H. Martin, national committeeman; Congressman C. B. Cline; and Roy E. Cabell, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, are fighting hard for the renomination of Taft. They are fighting among themselves, Martin and Cabell being arrayed against Cline, but all are on record in the matter of the presidential nomination.

**Taft Leading Thus Far.**  
Thus far only four of the ten district conventions have elected delegates, six of whom are for Taft, with a contest in the Third. There are no delegates from Virginia, and the campaign for national convention honors will be greater than the campaign thereafter.

The failure of the Brady-Treat faction at the Third District convention to instruct for Taft was regarded to mean that this element was silently supporting Roosevelt, and much was made of its silence. "Flow of the fact that Martin and the Brady wing were working together. Subsequently Mr. Martin sent a telegram to The Times-Dispatch, in which he stated that he had consistently urged his friends, wherever located, to instruct for Taft, and at the Norfolk convention on Saturday, at which instructed delegates were elected, Mr. Martin made a speech in which he eulogized the Taft administration and Taft.

Like many other States, Virginia will have a voice in the nomination of a Republican President, when it cannot hope to aid in his election. From that standpoint alone it figures largely therefore in the preliminary fight. The contest between Taft and Roosevelt at Chicago, according to local Republicans, will be more aggressive, more bitter and more memorable than the fight between the nominee of that

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## OLD FRIENDSHIP HAS BEEN BROKEN

Restraint Between Roosevelt  
and Taft Since Latter  
Entered White House.

## BREAK STARTED BY LETTER

Colonel Accused President of  
"Putting Money Above  
Brains."

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Washington, D. C., February 25.—The newspapers of March 5, 1909, recorded an impressive scene that had taken place in the Senate chamber just after William H. Taft had been sworn in as President of the United States. "Then the ex-President," says a newspaper account of the inauguration, "started to leave the chamber with Senator Knox as his escort. As he passed around the rostrum Mr. Taft was coming down. Mr. Roosevelt ran up the steps and grasped President Taft by the shoulders. The President grasped his predecessor in the same way. For a second they hugged each other and then shook hands vigorously."

This occurrence, testifying more dramatically than any other to the warm friendship that existed between William H. Taft and Theodore Roosevelt three brief years ago, was recalled by handshakes in Washington to-night when it became known that Roosevelt had entered the race for the 1912 nomination, and the questions were asked: "What is the explanation? What has brought about the change in the relations between these two men?"

**Restraint Between Them.**  
In the few weeks following the inauguration before Mr. Roosevelt sailed for Africa, frequent letters passed between the two men, and while the colonel was on his big hunt Mr. Taft received several communications from him describing his experiences. From the first, however, there was an apparent restraint between the two in regard to the discussion of legislation and other affairs of the administration. Republicans in Washington have been inclined to the opinion that by handshaking in Washington to-night Mr. Roosevelt has resumed the popular impression that he was quietly nominated and elected him, and this feeling undoubtedly has operated as a bar to the continuance of close relations.

Roosevelt's friends themselves acknowledge, however, that one of the "offenses" which the colonel harbors against Taft was the character of a letter which President Taft wrote to Colonel Roosevelt just before he sailed for Africa.

The President sent Major Archibald W. Butt, his military aide, to New York to deliver this letter to the colonel as he was embarking. In this letter President Taft wished the colonel a pleasant journey and thanked him again for what he had done for him. The President's letter is said to

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## COLONEL PLUNGES INTO LITERATURE

To Interviewers He Protests He  
Is Not Concerning Him-  
self With Politics.

## REFUSES STATEMENT

Wants Quiet Evening to Discuss  
Dickens, Thackeray and Scott  
With Professor.

Boston, February 25.—"I think I have made my position clear. I have no plans beyond this to-night. For to-morrow and afterwards, no one knows what is in store."

This was Colonel Roosevelt's response to the appeals made to him to-night for some word in regard to his statement that he would accept the presidential nomination. As he spoke, he smiled expansively. Then he added with a chuckle:

"I am having a quiet literary evening. I have not talked politics with any one."

Colonel Roosevelt was at the home of Judge Robert Grant, a Harvard classmate, with whom he spent the night. News of his decision spread around the city like wildfire to-night and created a great deal of excitement. Judge Grant's home was besieged by a crowd of persons anxious to see the Colonel, who was quietly discussing literature within. When at last he appeared at the doorway he beamed upon his interviewers as if something had made him more than usually happy.

A dozen questions were fired at the Colonel as soon as he appeared, but he cut them off with a laugh, saying: "Quiet day—I am spending a very quiet day. In regard to politics, I have seen no human being."

"But, Colonel," said an insistent questioner, "will you not explain what you think should be done in regard to the direct primaries choice of presidential nominees?"

"Everybody knows my position on direct primaries," he replied. "I have always believed in them."

"Now that you have taken this stand," was suggested, "you will doubtless be urged by your supporters to take the stump. Will you enter upon such a campaign?"

"That is a bridge which I must cross when I come to it," was his only comment.

The Colonel was told that his discussion of the recall of judges and of judicial decisions in his speech last week in Columbus, Ohio, had been interpreted in various ways. He said that evidently there had been much confusion as to his meaning.

"I shall reiterate what I said," he declared, "and if possible I shall put it in plainer language."

Again protesting that he was not concerning himself with politics, Colonel Roosevelt said he must return to his discussion of literature. He remarked that he wanted to talk over

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## ROOSEVELT SAYS HE WILL ACCEPT THE NOMINATION

Mind Made Up, and He  
Will Adhere to Deci-  
sion Until Conven-  
tion Chooses.

## ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN ANSWER TO GOVERNORS

Brief but Definite Note Leaves  
No Doubt as to Where He  
Stands in Race of 1912—He Is  
a Candidate, and Will Put Up  
Fight for Vote of Convention.  
Hopes People Will Be Given  
Opportunity to Express Their  
Preference by Means of Direct  
Primaries.

New York, February 25.—"I will accept the nomination for President if it is tendered me, and I will adhere to this decision until the convention has expressed its preference," is Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's reply to the letter of seven Republican Governors asking him to stand for the nomination.

The eagerly awaited reply was given out to-night at Colonel Roosevelt's offices here during his absence on a trip to Boston. It was unexpectedly brief, but definite. It follows:

"Gentlemen:

"I deeply appreciate your letter, and I realize to the full the heavy responsibility it puts upon me, expressing as it does the carefully considered convictions of the men elected to popular vote to stand as the heads of government in their several States."

"I absolutely agree with you that this matter is not one to be decided with any reference to the personal preferences or interests of any man, but purely from the standpoint of the interest of the people as a whole. I will accept the nomination for President if it is tendered to me, and I will adhere to this decision until the convention has expressed its preference. One of the chief principles for which I have stood, and which I have always endeavored and always shall endeavor to reduce to action, is the genuine rule of the people; and therefore I hope that as far as possible the people may be given the chance, through direct primaries, to express their preference as to who shall be the nominee of the Republican presidential convention."

"Very truly yours,  
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."  
The Hon. Walter H. Glasscock, Governor of the State of West Virginia, Charleston, W. Va.  
The Hon. Chester H. Aldrich, Governor of the State of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

The Hon. Robert P. Bass, Governor of the State of New Hampshire, Concord, N. H.  
The Hon. Joseph M. Carey, Governor of the State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, Wyo.  
The Hon. Chase E. Osborn, Governor of the State of Michigan, Lansing, Mich.

The Hon. W. R. Stubbs, Governor of the State of Kansas, Topeka, Kan.  
The Hon. Herbert S. Hadley, Governor of the State of Missouri, Jefferson, Mo."

The seven named Governors assembled at Chicago two weeks ago and drafted a letter to Colonel Roosevelt asserting that there was a popular demand for him to be President again, and urging him to declare himself as to whether he would accept the Republican nomination, if it came unsolicited and unsought."

**The Governors' Letter.**  
For two weeks Colonel Roosevelt considered the letter, indicating plainly that he had no intention of making a hasty reply.

The Governors' letter follows: "Chicago, February 20, 1912.  
"We, the undersigned Republican Governors, assembled for the purpose of considering what will best insure the continuation of the Republican party as a useful agency of good government, declare our belief that a careful investigation of the facts, that a large majority of the Republican voters of the country favor your nomination, and a large majority of the people favor your election at the next President of the United States."

"We believe that your candidacy will insure success in the next campaign. We believe that you represent, as no other man represents, those principles and policies upon which we must appeal for a majority of the votes of the American people, and which, in our opinion, are necessary for the happiness and prosperity of the country."

"We believe that in view of this public demand you should soon declare whether, if the nomination for the presidency came to you unsolicited and unsought, you will accept it."

"In submitting this request we are not considering your personal interests. We do not regard it as proper to consider either the interests or the preference of any man as regards the nomination for the presidency. We are expressing our sincere belief and best judgment as to what is demanded of you in the interests of the people as a whole. And we feel that you would be irresponsible to a plain public duty if you should

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